

their Members to vote against it" (*Arch. Md.* XIV; 52-53). The counties in which the delegates divided on crucial political questions were Baltimore, Kent, Queen Anne's and Calvert counties.

The Committee on Elections and Privileges reported to the Lower House on May 18, the names of the delegates which the writs of election showed had been chosen (pp. 78-79). One of these Francis Mauldin, had died since his election in November 1761, and the House ordered the Speaker to have the Deputy-Secretary of the Province issue a writ to the Sheriff of Cecil for a special election to fill his place (p. 74). The house journal does not show that anyone served in Mauldin's place at this session, but the *Maryland Gazette* for April 22, 1762, discloses that at a special election held "last week" Nathan Baker was elected from Cecil County. Baker was not sworn in, however, as a delegate until October 4, 1763, the opening day of the next session (p. 292). The Committee on Elections and Privileges in a report to the house begged leave to observe that there were trivial discrepancies in the wording of the writs of election for Charles and Frederick counties, but that the "variancies we take to be Omissions of the Clerk in making out the said Writs", so the status of the delegates from these counties was duly established (p. 79). On March 26, a petition from sundry freeholders and other voters of Calvert County was "preferred" to the house "of an undue election" by Young Parran, who was obviously a contestant for a seat. The Sheriff of Calvert County was ordered to stand at the bar of the house on March 31, to answer the complaints contained in the petition, and the complainants were directed to deliver in writing to those charged with undue practices, the particular facts they would bring forward at the hearing. The record does not disclose the nature of the charges, nor if the election of one or all of the four delegates from Calvert, viz: Graham, Gantt, and the two Mackalls, was questioned; but when the matter came before the house, and received a further hearing, it was promptly dismissed and costs assessed against the complainants (pp. 97, 101, 102).

The 1762 Assembly proceeded to organize in the usual manner. Representatives of the Lower House announced to the Governor on March 17 that there was a sufficient number of delegates present to compose a new house. The usual ritual observed at the opening of a new Assembly was followed. Two members of the Upper House, Benedict Calvert and John Ridout, accompanied by John Ross, the Clerk of the Council and of the Upper House, appeared in the Lower House where the delegates qualified by taking the several oaths to the Government, subscribing to the oath of abjuration and repeating and signing the test. The delegates then went in a body to the Upper House, where the Governor requested them to return to their own house and choose a Speaker. They thereupon returned and unanimously elected Colonel Henry Hooper of Dorchester County, who had previously served in this capacity, and placed him in the chair. Two members notified the Governor of the choice, who then required the delegates to return to the Upper House and present their Speaker (p. 69). The Governor declared he was well pleased with their choice,